

Oklahoma's Nursing Times

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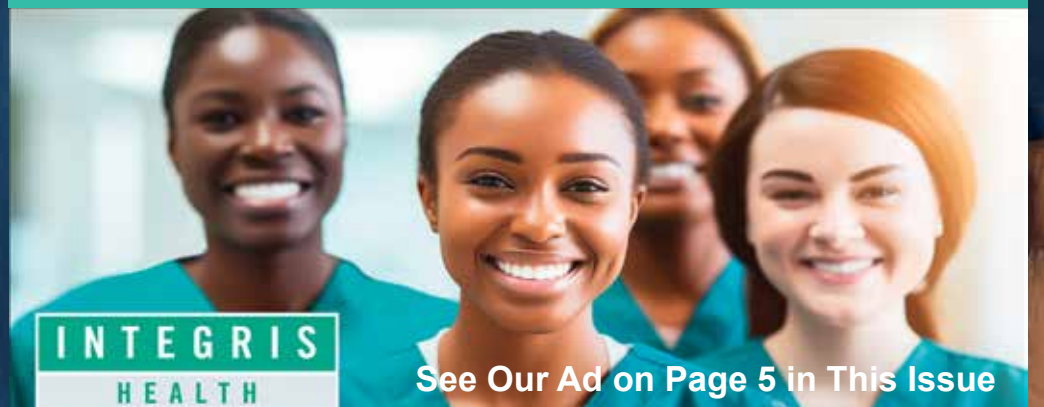
More Than 50 Years of Nursing

*"I love talking
with patients."*

Read Kathy's story on page 2



RECRUITER SHOWCASE



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More Than 50 Years of Nursing

RN loves talking with patients

by James Coburn, staff writer

Kathy Neff, RN, has invested 53 years of her life in patient care since becoming an LPN in 1972. Fifty-three years later, she loves being a preoperative and postoperative staff nurse at HPI Community Hospital South, located in Oklahoma City.

Neff joined the ranks of registered nursing when graduating from St. Anthony School of Nursing in Oklahoma City. St. Anthony School of Nursing, proudly graduated nurses from 1919 to 1983.

Neff continued at St. Anthony hospital in coronary care for five years before transferring to the emergency room there for 30 years. She was about to retire until a friend at Community Hospital South invited her to apply for a part-time position there.

“Here I am 20 years later, and I enjoy it, and I don’t want to retire yet,” Neff said. “I just enjoy patient care — I enjoy getting to know patients — I enjoy visiting with them and their families.”

So, patient care became a better fit for her than working in an ER where patients are often in critical condition, she said. Her patients are stable and much more talkative after an elective surgery.

Her kindness and skills made her the Community Hospital South 2024 recipient of the DAISY Award. The DAISY Foundation honors nurses with profound gratitude for what they do. The DAISY Award is a recognition program to celebrate and recognize nurses by collecting nominations from patients, families, and co-workers.

Community Hospital is a specialty hospital with two locations one on the North side of the city at 9800 Broadway Extension and the other on the South side of OKC off SW 89th Street.

Neff said HPI Community Hospital South is a smaller hospital with fully staffed nurse-to-patient ratios.

“You get more personal care because you have more time to deal with the patients instead of a big group of patients at larger hospitals,” Neff said. “What I’ve heard is they are very short staffed.”

Neff has had her share of patients pass away during her 53-year-career. And, getting to know families during that time has touched her life.

“There’s been patients that I will never forget,” she reflected.

Community Hospital South is a specialty hospital. Neff said that patients have come to Community Hospital South who are critically ill. It may be challenging to transfer them to another hospital to treat a condition such as severe septic shock. However, not all hospitals will have an available bed, Neff explained. So, when a patient is already in a facility that’s giving care, such as Community Hospital South, the doctor who would be designated to receive them at the other hospital might refuse to take another one.

“You’re left here with someone who’s very sick. But I’ve seen people come out of that (severe sepsis shock) with a lot of antibiotics and a lot of time in the ICU,” Neff said.

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Kathy Neff, RN, has seen a lot of changes during her 53 years as a nurse.

According to US News, Community Hospital ranks high in colon cancer surgery, gastroenterology and GI surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, obstetrics and gynecology, and orthopedics. Community Hospital South has a streamlined, efficient environment. Additionally, the hospital is a BlueDistinction Center+, which means it has been recognized for its expertise and efficiency in delivering specialty care.

"I have some lifelong friends from patients that I will have forever," Neff continued. "I feel it's rewarding at the end of the day, even though you don't feel you gave 100 percent — you did. Sometimes you work when you're very tired. You have a lot on your mind, but you try to do your very best with that patient. At the end of the day, you've done your best and you're rewarded by their appreciation. And it's always the people you feel you didn't spend a lot of time with, those are always the ones that say, 'That nurse was so nice to me.' It's amazing how people appreciate a few minutes of your time just to visit with them. And I love to visit."

She said nursing has changed a lot since she entered the profession.

"I tell those young nurses that I work with all the time, 'You know back in the olden days...' I mean things you don't think about unless you're older," Neff said. "I mean like we hung bottles for IV bags. When we'd hang a drip, we didn't have those fancy pumps. You had to sit there and time it with your watch. And when a doctor walked up to your desk, you'd always get up and let them have your seat. And I still do that. And (the young nurses) go, 'Mam, that went out years ago.'"

Back in the day, what the doctor said was the way it would be, Neff said. Nurses were hesitant in sharing their opinions.

"Now it's more of a team. I think the doctor asks for the nurses' suggestions," Neff said.




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SERVING WITH HEART & FAITH: A Path of Purpose

by Vickie Jenkins, staff writer

At Bellevue Health and Rehab Center, the focus is on providing an upscale patient experience that blends expert skilled nursing care and long-term rehabilitation services with the warmth and ease of luxury living. As RN Patient Care Coordinator, Sydney Natale plays a vital role in ensuring that each resident receives personalized, compassionate care tailored to their unique needs. With her clinical expertise and dedication to patient well-being, Sydney helps create environments where healing, comfort, and dignity go hand in hand. Bellevue is more than a facility, it's a place where patients feel supported, valued and truly at home.

Raised in Oklahoma, Sydney always had a heart for helping others. From a young age, she dreamed of becoming a nurse, though she once entertained the idea of being a meteorologist. "That dream quickly faded away once I realized it involved too much math," she laughed. Nursing ultimately won her heart, and she went on to graduate from OSU-OKC with her nursing degree. Sydney comes from a strong medical family; her grandfather was a physician, her grandmother was a nurse, her mother is a Certified Medical Assistant, and her sister proudly serves as a combat medic in the US Army.

Sydney began her nursing career in a hospital setting, where she gained valuable experience, but she found her true calling at Bellevue Health and Rehab Center. She worked in various areas of hospital care, yet she prefers the atmosphere at Bellevue, where she focused on personalized care and teamwork. Bellevue is a family-owned facility that has been passed down from generations. "I feel like it is my second home, a place where staff and residents alike are treated with warmth, respect and genuine care." As an RN Patient Care Coordinator, Sydney works closely with both short-term rehab and long-term care, ensuring they receive the compassion, support and skilled attention they deserve. Her warmth and dedication are evident in every interaction.

When asked what qualities make a good nurse, Sydney didn't hesitate. "Caring and the ability to anticipate what comes next," she said. "In long-term care, being able to recognize and respond to a patient's needs before they even have to ask is especially important, and it's something I strive for every day," she added. At Bellevue Health and Rehab Center, where both skilled nursing and long-term care are offered, that means a nurse's attentiveness and intuition can make a world of difference in someone's daily life.

Sydney believes one of her best personal qualities is punctuality. "I never like to be late," she said with a smile. "If anything, I'm always early." That sense of reliability reflects her deep commitment to her role and the people she serves. One of her favorite parts of the day is walking in and greeting the residents with a smile. "I just love saying hi to everyone," she said. "It means a lot to know I'm helping them, it's the best feeling." Her positive attitude and consistent presence help bring comfort and reassurance to those in her care.



Sydney Natale, RN is the Patient Care Coordinator at Bellevue Health and Rehab Center. Bellevue, family-owned and operated, provides skilled nursing and long term care where you will be treated with the utmost respect and care.

When asked what advice she would give to someone entering the medical field, Sydney encouraged others to "follow your path." She believes it's important to explore different areas of healthcare until you find what truly fits. "You might have to try a few things, but stick with what you like and where you feel called," she said. Outside of work, Sydney is deeply involved in her church, where she leads a group of ninth-grade girls on Wednesday nights through a program called Switch. Her faith is a cornerstone in her life, and she also enjoys singing and playing the guitar. She is working towards joining the church worship team. Sydney's heart for service extends beyond her job; she has two support dogs, Sammy, a pomeranian, and Sadie, a labrador, who occasionally brings them to brighten the residents at Bellevue.

With a caring spirit, a strong sense of purpose and a heart full of joy, Sydney continues to make a lasting impact on others. Whether it's offering a warm smile to a resident, leading young girls at church, or sharing the comfort of her supportive dogs, Sydney serves with compassion and grace. She's not only a nurse, she's a source of light and encouragement to everyone around her. Nursing is more than just a job, it's a calling.

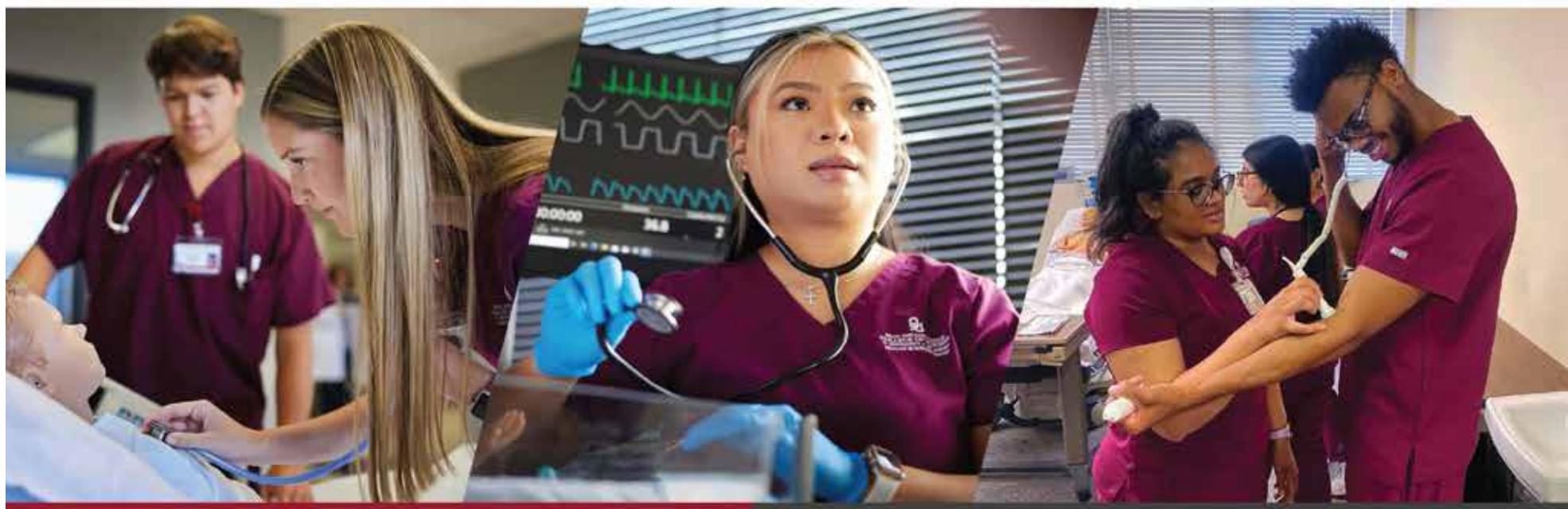


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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2025 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Clinical Partners Help OU Students Thrive

The excitement.
The lightbulb moments.

For nursing students, there is no greater joy than stepping onto the clinical floor and succeeding.

For University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing Interim Dean Melissa Craft, APRN-CNS, AOCN, FCNS, FAAN, clinical rotations are truly where the rubber meets the road and nursing careers take off.

"It takes them a while to realize that a nurse is more than just the skills that you bring," Craft said. "Their eyes light up in both taking care of patients but also learning the skills. Over time you learn a lot of what nurses do are the soft skills."

"For me, what I love is seeing those students put that together. Getting the IV stick the first time, that's awesome, that's exciting, that's cool. Holding the patient's hand after you get the stick and talking to them through what happens next and the surgery they're afraid of, that's the part that makes the biggest impact on the patient and what they will remember their nurse for."

And none of that would be possible if it wasn't for the clinical partnerships the college has forged through the years. Each semester hundreds of OU nursing students fan out to facilities across the state for their first real foray into nursing.

The first few times can be scary, but what most students don't realize is that seasoned nurses like Craft and other faculty have already set them up for success.

"My perspective of the importance of our clinical partners has grown even more over the last year," Craft said. "I've always known how important clinical partners are but the perspective I've gained ... is for us to be able to admit every qualified applicant to one of our five sites, the critical way we can do that is we have to have clinical spots. This is a practice profession."

"We have to have other people that will help train our students. Having clinical partners that guarantee us those spots is huge."

Those partnership aren't just clinical spots but truly learning opportunities and even stepping stones into first jobs.

Stefanie Beavers, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, knows that better than anyone.

As the college's inaugural OU Health's Chief Nurse Executive, Beavers is an integral part in weaving those partnerships together.

"It's critical, especially right now with our nursing workforce shortages, that as health systems we are providing this space and adjunct clinical faculty to support the College of Nursing and to realize how it helps develop students for transition into nursing practice," Beavers said. "We know our students really need that



Healthcare clinical partners across the state help University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing students become some of the most prepared graduates in the region.

clinical anchor."

Beavers said the nursing industry has learned how critical it is to support its partners on the academic side as they support students in the clinical environment.

"We are really helping to create the pipeline for our future workforce," she said. "Ultimately, we're training our future workforce. It's our obligation as an academic health system."

The conversation regarding clinical partnerships is two-fold, Craft explained.

"I really need my clinical partners to help me not only with the preceptors - the bedside nurses helping to train the students - but adjunct faculty," she said. "It's impossible to hire enough full-time faculty to manage all of the clinical groups."

Not only do students get clinical spots, but nurses at those facilities also have an opportunity to become adjunct faculty and expand their knowledge base.

And opening horizons is what clinicals are really about.

Craft's nursing wheelhouse is as an oncology clinical nurse specialist. She tells about Fall semester 2024 when she split a clinical group with another instructor and took them to the OU Health North Tower and the oncology floors.

"For that day, the lightbulbs that came on for the students were amazing for me to watch," Craft said.

And thanks to clinical partnerships, the excitement goes both ways.

For more information about the University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing program, visit: <https://www.ou.edu/admissions/academics/nursing>



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Straight From the Heart

Serving with Purpose, Leading with Love

by Vickie Jenkins, staff writer



Alexandra Greenhoward, RN is a dedicated nurse at Oklahoma Heart Hospital. She is passionate about her work and her kindness shines through in everything she does, leading with skill and heart.

Oklahoma Heart Hospital is the first of its kind, in the state, physician-owned and designed by cardiologists. With two main campuses, a network of more than 80 cardiovascular specialists at more than 60 affiliated clinics and hospitals across Oklahoma, it stands at a forefront of heart care. The hospital is also home to a groundbreaking research foundation that's advancing both cardiovascular treatment and patient outcomes statewide.

One of the many professionals making a difference at Oklahoma Heart Hospital is Alexandra Greenhoward, RN, Known for her positive attitude and passion for patient care, Alexandra works in the Progressive Cardiac Care Unit (PCCU). She has been a nurse for seven years with the past six dedicated to Oklahoma Heart Hospital. "I truly enjoy my job here and can't imagine doing anything else," she said. "Even when I was a little girl, I wanted to help others. This career feels like a natural extension of how I was raised."

Alexandra attended the University of Oklahoma's nursing program and was raised in the small town of Luther, Oklahoma. During nursing school, she was fortunate to have several mentors who helped shape her path, particularly her professors, whom she described as incredibly supportive throughout her journey. Among her classmates, one stood out as a major influence, Kristi Marrow, RN, a fellow nursing student and close friend who encouraged and inspired her during their time in the program.

When asked what qualities make a good nurse, Alexandra replied, "A nurse needs to be passionate and caring, someone who truly wants to help others. She emphasized the importance of being a team player, noting that nursing is never a one-person job. "You have to be able to work well with others where everyone feels supported and encouraged," she said. Alexandra believes that when nurses lift each other up, it not only strengthens the team but also enhances the care patients receive. A positive atmosphere can ease the stress of even the most difficult days, allowing both staff and patients to feel more at ease.

When asked to describe what she considers her best quality, Alexandra responded, "I'm a very positive person and a true optimist," she said with a warm smile. She shared that her greatest reward comes from knowing she's making a difference, not only in the lives of her patients, but also in the lives of her coworkers. "I love making people feel good about themselves, whether it's a patient or a fellow nurse," she explained.

For Alexandra, creating a supportive and encouraging environment is just as important as providing excellent medical care. She believes that when her teammates feel valued and appreciated, it creates a ripple effect of kindness and benefits everyone. "Helping my teammates feel supported and appreciated is just as important to me as the care I give. Others feel seen and supported, that's what drives me every day," she added.

Alexandra encourages anyone entering the medical field to stay curious and open-minded. She believes a willingness to learn is one of the most valuable traits a healthcare professional can have. "Never hesitate to ask questions," she said, emphasizing the importance of staying teachable, especially in such a fast-paced and ever changing environment. She also stresses the power of a positive attitude. "Focus on what you can do, take every opportunity to grow and remember, you never stop learning in this field," she added. For Alexandra, each day is a day to improve, connect and make a difference.

Alexandra played college basketball and later served as an assistant coach, experiences that taught her the value of teamwork and communication. The lessons she learned on the court, being a team player, supporting those around her and working towards a common goal have translated into her nursing career. "Just like a team depends on each player, nurses depend on each other to give the best care possible," she explains. She believes that treating others the way we'd like to be treated is essential in both sports and healthcare. Her time in athletics also reinforced that actions speak louder than words, a principle that continues to guide her through patient care, procedures, and meaningful connections. To her, it's all about building trust, whether it's with teammates or patients.

In her free time, she enjoys working out, being creative with DIY projects around the house, gardening and playing with her three dogs. Alexandra brings heart, teamwork, and a positive spirit to every shift, reminding us what it truly means to be a nurse.

INTEGRIS Hosts First Responders Day

INTEGRIS Health Southwest Medical Center hosted its First Responders Day today, a special event dedicated to honoring the brave men and women who serve our community as first responders. From EMTs and paramedics to firefighters and law enforcement officers, these heroes are often the first on the scene in moments of crisis.

hot dogs and invited local first responders to relax, enjoy a meal and spend time with the medical teams they collaborate with daily. This event not only celebrates their dedicated service but also provides an opportunity to build stronger relationships between emergency personnel and hospital staff.

As a token of appreciation, INTEGRIS Health staff grilled hamburgers and

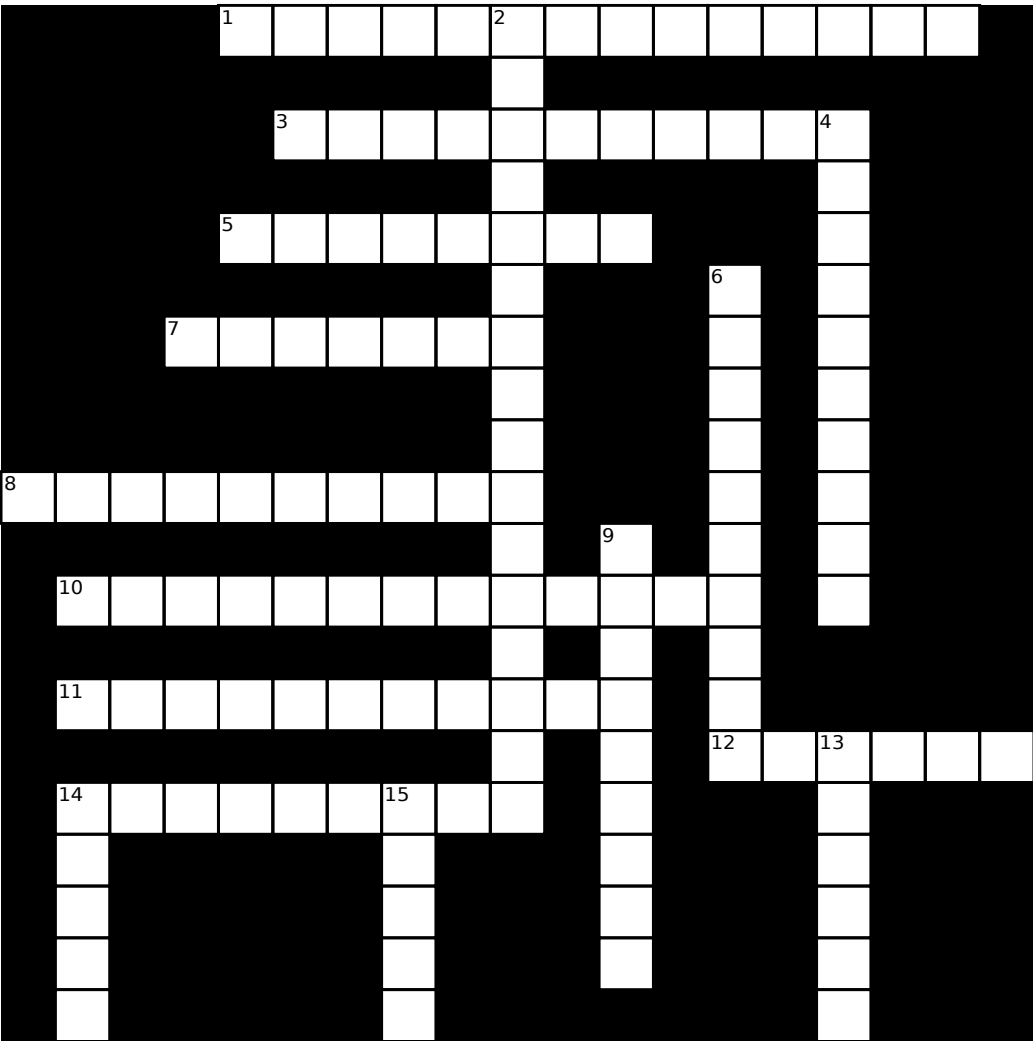
To all the first responders out there, thank you for your bravery, your sacrifice and your service.



OKNT

CROSSWORD: NURSING HISTORY - FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

- Across**
1. 1887 Nurses would maintain an even temperature in your ward by _____
3. 1887 Nurses must daily _____ their ward
5. Florence’s work inspired Jean Henri Dunant to found _____
7. Florence insisted on adequate lighting, diet and _____
8. 1887 Nurses must not frequent _____
10. Where was Florence Nightingale born
11. Florence was called “The Lady _____”
12. Where did Florence set up her Training School for Nurses
14. 1887 Nurses would _____ to keep the ward well lit
Down
2. Florence wrote “Notes on Hospitals” explaining how to _____
4. Florence’s high standards helped transform nursing into a respectable _____
6. Florence was known to keep a _____ in her pocket
9. Florence is buried in East Wellow _____
13. How old was Florence when she died
14. 1887 Nurses would care for _____ patients
15. Florence never did _____



HAPPILY EMPLOYED

RN has good reason for loyalty

by James Coburn, staff writer

Nepali born Dhundi Regmi, RN, has been a mainstay at Inspire Specialty Hospital in Midwest City. He has experienced a variety of cultures and health conditions during his tenure. In 2013 he earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Langston University. He has been with Inspire Specialty Hospital since 2015.

"I get to see every type of person here — get to know them — get to treat them. So, I feel like this is the right position," Regmi said. "I love this place in the sense it gives me opportunity to grow."

Additionally, he said the hospital's environment of coworkers is highly impressive. The nursing staff and management is very team oriented. Management is always keen to listen to his opinions, providing a sense of shared governance.

"They provide what I need on my floor to do my best," he said of patient centered care. "I am always hungry for rewards. They tell me I do a good job and I like to be in a place where I'm satisfied."

The long-term acute care facility serves as an extension of ICU care, serving the metro and rural communities, said Diane Metscher, business development director. The average stay at the 31-bed hospital is about 25 days.

"Patients come to us for specialty care, ventilator weaning, severe wounds, and post-op complications. So, they're very critical when they come here," Metscher said.

As a charge nurse he creates a plan of action to share with the nursing staff. Regmi is also a nursing preceptor by mentoring, monitoring and teaching undergraduate nursing students. Nursing is a rewarding and stressful job, he said.

"I have 10 years of nursing experience, so I can be their mentor. I can guide them," Regmi explained. "I can help them transfer from book knowledge that they already have and turn it into good skills to make an impact in compassionate care."

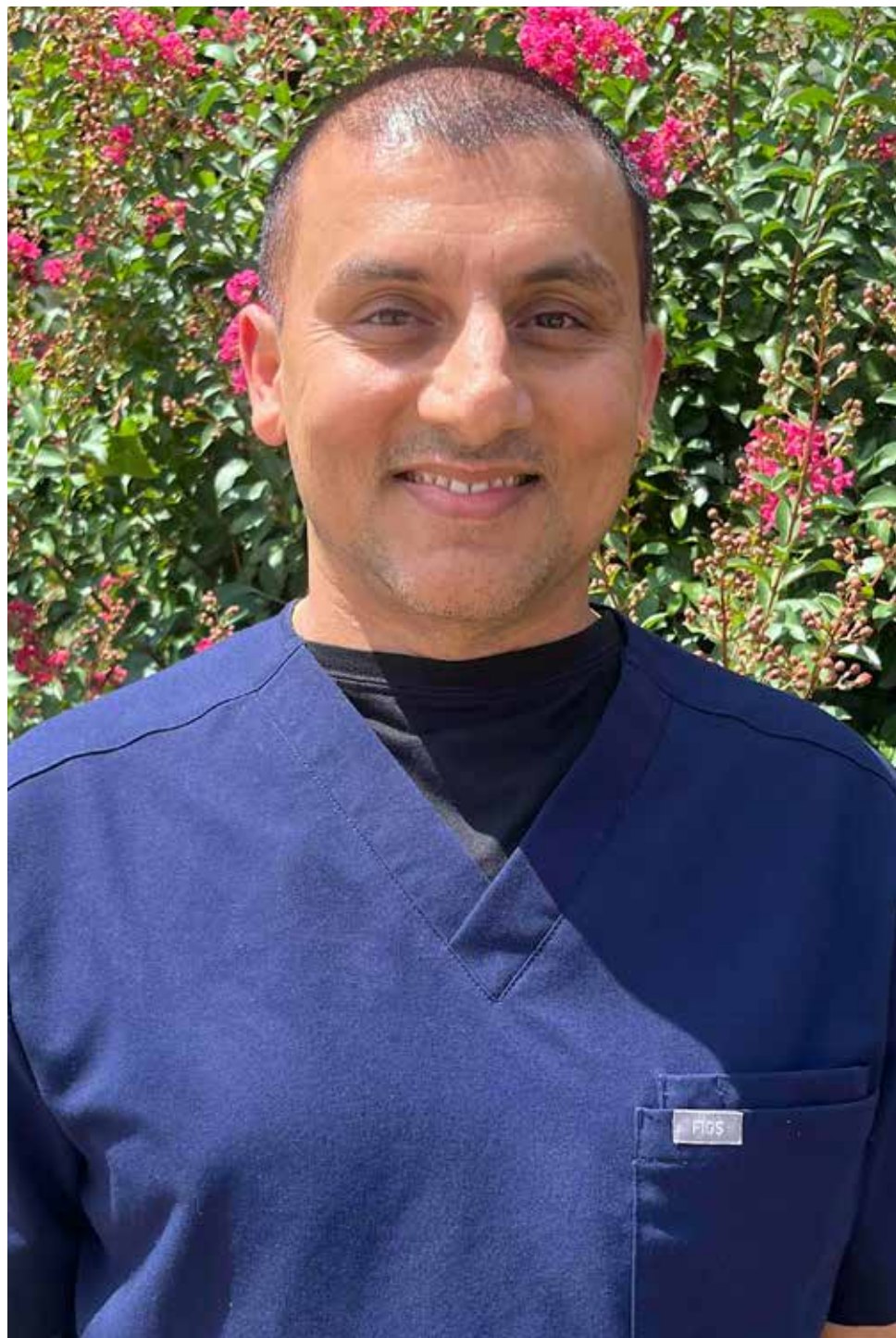
He tells them they need to prepare themselves mentally and physically. There are many responsibilities associated with a nursing career.

"We are dealing with people's lives and dealing with their emotions and their feelings," he said. "You have to prepare yourself and know that you can do it. You can make a change in people's lives. Nursing is not a job for me, it's a passion. I'd like to grow more. I'm still looking for those opportunities"

Regmi said his upbringing in Nepal prepared him to meet the challenge. Many of his family members struggled with health issues.

"As a child I thought I've got to do something. The way I saw my family suffer, I didn't want anyone else to suffer," Regmi said. "So that motivated me. And I encouraged myself by deciding to go to school. I said to myself 'This is for me.'"

His father wanted his son to be in health care. His dad set an example for him as a politician bettering his community. So as a fifth-grader, Regmi followed his father's example by choosing to volunteer in a health clinic that was near his home. The boy cleaned the clinic's surroundings, picked up trash, and mopped the floor with his friends. This led him to a deeper sense of community.



Nepali born Dhundi Regmi, RN, has a strong sense of family and community with compassion and skills helping others.

"I had a quality for nursing at that time. I loved to see people smile. I love to help. That gives me satisfaction," Regmi said. "When I lay down on my bed, I think about what I do. It is to make some changes in someone's life. If I save somebody's life today from passing, or if someone is emotionally distressed and I'm able to support them, comfort them, and they feel good about it, then when I go home, I think that's what I needed to do — that's what I'm here for."

Nursing has made him a better person in many ways. First and foremost, his heart is telling him minute-by-minute what he needs to do.

"To help them is to help myself," he explained. "Besides that, it is a good career for me. It gives me stability."

In fact, Regmi and his wife, Sanchita, are both registered nurses who live in Edmond with their 3-year-old son, Aayan. Regmi spends most of his leisure time with his son. His parents chose Sanchita to be his bride, which is customary in Nepal.

"I felt by the way she was talking that we would be so compatible together," he said. His wife was a NICU nurse back home when he first met her after traveling back to Nepal.

Regmi hopes his son will one day marry a nurse, too.

NURSE

TALK



What
is your
dream
vacation?



“My dream vacation is a road trip to hike all of the national parks.”



Rylie Calhoon, RN

“My dream vacation would be to go to Japan.”



Bethany Witte, RN

“I would love to go to Italy or Spain.”



Marcie Moore, RN

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2025 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Stillwater Medical 1st in Oklahoma to Launch Emergency Nurse Residency Program



Stillwater Medical launches residency program to invest in the growth and education of nurses throughout its health system in an effort to improve patient care.

Stillwater Medical has partnered with the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) to offer a robust new graduate residency program to invest in their nurses' growth and further patient care. This is part of the health system's continual efforts to provide the highest-quality patient experience.

The Emergency Nurse Residency Program (ENRP) is the first available in Oklahoma and is a mixture of in-person didactic (lectures, simulations, hands-on equipment, etc.) and online, independent learning modules. While the content is designed for emergency nurses, Stillwater Medical is offering the program to nurses in all specialty areas.

Newsweek recently named Stillwater Medical as No. 1 in the state of Oklahoma for patient experience. Nurses are at the front-line of patient care. Dawn Kregel, chief nursing officer and senior vice president of patient care services for Stillwater Medical, says Stillwater Medical's greatest asset is its employees.

"Nurses are caring for those who cannot care for themselves. It's a noble profession and as a health system, we are committed to investing in our employees so they can deliver the best care possible. We want them to grow in knowledge and experience because they touch the lives of so many and will continue to do so throughout their career," Kregel said. No matter an individual's specialty, Stillwater Medical nurses are encouraged to register for a course. Course modules include pediatric emergencies, shock, sepsis, & the older adult, behavioral health and metabolic emergencies, among various others.

Heidi Gilbert, emergency department clinical educator, is excited to offer this training for Stillwater Medical staff. She discovered this program in her role on the board of directors for ENA.

"It was such a phenomenal training. The best education program ENA has," Gilbert said. "And I wanted to bring it to Stillwater Medical."

The process had many components for its installation, but Stillwater Medical was able to bring the program to life thanks to a commitment from Lori and Vance Hunter through Stillwater Medical Foundation's Still Strong Emergency Department Educational Endowment.

Currently, five new graduates are enrolled in the program. As of now, the training is fast-tracked to take 12 weeks, but in the future, the program will be placed on a timeline of 16-18 weeks. Yet, Gilbert encourages nurses to take courses pertaining to their specialty as an effort to grow their expertise and skills. All classes are stand-alone.

"ICU nurses would not necessarily need OB/Gyn emergency training, so I encourage people to hop in and out of the program," Gilbert said. "No matter if completed in full, or a few classes taken, the more education we have, the better we will take care of our patients."

While the program has recently been added, the new graduates are already reaping benefits.

Kelsee Brown has worked in the emergency room at Stillwater Medical for two years while finishing her education to become a registered nurse and earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. As a fully registered nurse, she was eager to further her education through the program.

"Between the in-person lectures, hands-on interactive simulations and course modules, I am learning valuable information I will use every day," Brown said. "This residency program is going to equip me with the knowledge, and experience, I need to be the best nurse I can be and allow me to provide the best possible care for my patients."

The first cohort of program students graduated in the last week of April 2025, where a ceremony was held to honor their commitment to continued education. Also, graduates received a free one-year membership to the ENA.

The program is placed at a year-long endeavor for Stillwater Medical, but Gilbert hopes to see a continued partnership. Stillwater Medical has opening for nurses in a variety of specialty areas. To learn more or apply visit <https://www.stillwater-medical.org/careers/>.

"I'm very proud Stillwater Medical is the first in Oklahoma to offer this and can see nurses bettering their quality of care for years to come," Gilbert said.



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Key Milestone Reached in Construction of Oklahoma’s Only Digestive Health Institute

Kathryn Ann Meinders Digestive Health Institute opens summer 2026

Oklahomans are only a year away from opening the state’s first comprehensive health care center dedicated exclusively to digestive health.

Donors, Mercy caregivers and community members gathered Thursday for a topping out ceremony to mark the placement of the highest steel beam during construction of the Kathryn Ann Meinders Digestive Health Institute. The \$52 million institute, scheduled to open in summer 2026, will be the only facility of its kind within a 500-mile drive.

“We’re excited to be a few steps closer to opening this facility, which means patients suffering from a wide range of complicated health issues will finally have a one-stop shop to take care of their needs,” said Bob Meinders, who along with his late brother Herman and other family members made the institute possible with a \$10 million donation. “For it to be on the main campus of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City makes it that much more convenient for patients to get the best medical care available at the same location.”

Trey Orndorff, a local university professor, knows the benefits the institute will provide to Oklahomans, especially those with complex digestive health issues. Orndorff recently had his first full year in recent memory without a surgery or serious flare-up of Crohn’s disease and related complications thanks to the Mercy services soon to be available under one roof.

“Having that comprehensive care is a huge part of what makes things different,” said Orndorff. “It makes it easier to get everything done at one time, without delays and with the same care team.”

About the Kathryn Ann Meinders Digestive Health Institute
The Kathryn Ann Meinders Digestive Health Institute will be a freestanding, two-level building at 4400 McAuley Blvd. It’s just south of the main Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City buildings, on the east side of N. Meridian Avenue at McAuley Boulevard.

The 52,000-square-foot institute, licensed through the state Health Department, will have seven procedure rooms, 21 prep/recovery rooms, a chapel, ambulatory space for gastro-intestinal health care, an inflammatory bowel disease clinic, a hepatology clinic, a motility lab, education space and administrative offices.

With plans to hire three new physicians within the first year, Mercy’s capacity to help patients with digestive health needs will significantly expand.

“This meets a dire need for so many patients in Oklahoma,” said Dr. Hussein Bitar, a board-certified gastroenterologist. “Instead of piecing together care from different providers at different places, digestive health patients will be able to get everything they need in the same building. That’s never been possible before in Oklahoma.”

The facility is named for Herman Meinders’ late daughter, Kathryn Ann, who died unexpectedly in 2008 at age 42 of causes unrelated to gastrointestinal health. Kathryn Ann and her father were very close, traveling together across the world as Herman built his flowers-by-wire business. She was an accomplished educator and beloved member of her family.

Meinders and Mercy
From 2018 until Herman’s death this year, Herman and LaDonna Meinders donated nearly \$20 million to Mercy Health Foundation. The \$10 million donation for the digestive health institute is the Meinders’ largest single gift to Mercy, and one from a long list of major gifts from the family. Herman Meinders is the second-largest donor across all five states Mercy serves.

The Meinders family’s donations have contributed to the resounding success of the Meinders NeuroScience Institute, making Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City the top-ranked neurological hospital in the state.

One recent donation funded the Meinders Center for Movement Disorders, and another major contribution went to the Love Family Women’s Center.

The Meinders’ gift of a new CT imaging machine in the hospital’s Emergency Department propelled Mercy to the No. 1 rank nationally in door-to-needle time for stroke patients, ensuring they receive the fastest-possible care at a time when every second counts.



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“Aspiring Nurse” Training Launches in Oklahoma

Chamberlain University, the nation’s largest School of Nursing and part of Adtalem Global Education Inc. (NYSE: ATGE), and SSM Health, a leading Catholic health system, announced today the launch of the Aspiring Nurse Program—a large-scale partnership designed to fund nursing education, enhance clinical readiness, and create a pathway to employment across SSM Health’s care sites in Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois and Wisconsin.

The ambitious partnership is the first of its kind in the nation—offering a direct, employment-focused pathway for aspiring nurses by combining tuition support with immersive clinical experience, and the opportunity for job placement within SSM Health facilities after graduation. In return, students commit to joining SSM Health’s workforce, creating a sustainable talent pipeline that is projected to produce more than 400 new nurses annually.

“The nursing shortage demands bold, scalable solutions,” said Laura S. Kaiser, FACHE, President & CEO of SSM Health. “The Aspiring Nurse Program is a strategic long-term investment in our people and our Mission. It’s designed to meet today’s workforce challenges while building a stronger, more resilient future for nursing.”

This partnership also represents a leap forward in Adtalem’s strategy to become the clinical workforce partner of choice for providers nationwide.

“This partnership with SSM Health demonstrates the transformative power of large-scale collaboration between education and healthcare,” said Steve Beard, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Adtalem Global Education. “When forward-thinking health systems invest in comprehensive workforce partnerships—combining funding, hands-on facility training and a direct line to employment—we create sustainable pipelines that scale with provider needs. We’re building the foundation for long-term workforce stability while ensuring graduates are day-one ready. This is the future of strategic healthcare workforce development.”

The Aspiring Nurse Program launches in Oklahoma this fall through Chamberlain’s online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, with additional cohorts to follow in St. Louis and Jefferson City, Missouri, as well as in Illinois and Wisconsin. Students will train directly within SSM Health facilities—where they may eventually work—gaining firsthand experience with the health system’s work culture, care practices, and technology systems before starting their professional careers.

“This program is more than a solution to the nursing shortage—it’s a bold reimagining of how we grow and support the next generation of nurses,” said Amy Wilson, DNP, Chief Nurse Executive for SSM Health. “By investing in education and clinical experience from day one, we’re not only preparing students for success—we’re strengthening the future of patient care across our communities.”

Founded as Deaconess College of Nursing, Chamberlain’s legacy is rooted in a mission to serve communities through care and education. This alignment fosters a values-driven learning environment that not only prepares students clinically, but also instills a deep commitment to service,



empathy, and holistic care—qualities essential to delivering exceptional patient outcomes within SSM Health.

“We are excited to partner with SSM Health to place future nurses where they’re needed most across multiple states,” said Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FACHE, FAAN, President of Chamberlain University. “Nurses are essential to community health, and expanding the workforce supports both patients and current caregivers. As the nation’s largest School of Nursing, we’re eager to create innovative and immediate opportunities for our graduates in communities where they’ll make a real impact.”

For more information on the Aspiring Nurse Program or to apply for the inaugural cohort starting September 2025, please visit chamberlain.edu/aspiring-nurse-program-oklahoma.

About Adtalem Global Education

Adtalem Global Education is the leading provider of healthcare education in the U.S., shaping the future of healthcare by preparing a practice-ready workforce with high-quality academic programs. We innovate education pathways, align with industry needs and empower individuals to reach their full potential. Our commitment to excellence and access is reflected in our expansive network of institutions, serving over 90,000 students and supported by a strong community of approximately 365,000 alumni and nearly 10,000 dedicated employees. Visit Adtalem.com for more information, and follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

About Chamberlain University

Chamberlain University, an Adtalem Global Education (NYSE: ATGE) institution, educates, empowers, and emboldens a diverse community of healthcare professionals who seek to advance the health of people, families, communities, and nations. Chamberlain has the largest school of nursing in the U.S., with both on-campus and online degree programs. Chamberlain is comprised of the College of Nursing and the College of Health Professions, offering a variety of bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral, and certificate programs. Chamberlain University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Visit Chamberlain.edu for more information, and follow on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

About SSM Health

Nationally recognized for quality and innovation, SSM Health is a Catholic, not-for-profit, fully integrated health system working to advance health equity and empower all people to achieve their full potential.

With care delivery sites in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin, SSM Health provides convenient access to high-quality community-based services as well as world-class academic medicine, clinical trials and research studies. The organization’s footprint includes hospitals, physician offices, outpatient and virtual care services, senior care, comprehensive home care and hospice services, a fully transparent pharmacy benefit company, a health insurance company and an accountable care organization. As one of the largest employers in every community it serves, the organization’s 40,000 team members and 15,000 providers are dedicated to fulfilling SSM Health’s Mission: “Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.” For more information, visit ssmhealth.com or find us on Facebook and LinkedIn.



SECOND HALF EXPO 2025

Saturday
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Bob Loudermilk
Entrepreneur, Inspirational Speaker, Author



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SENIOR NEWS & LIVING



OG&E is proud to host the 48th Annual OG&E Senior Day, a special event dedicated to celebrating and empowering seniors aged 55 and older.

Gate admission is FREE for seniors aged 55 and older. This year’s theme, **“Senior Day: Your Passport to Adventure,”** promises a fun-filled day of exploration, excitement, and enrichment.

Date: September 17, 2025
Location: Oklahoma State Fair, Modern Living Building
Time: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

This FREE event offers a variety of engaging activities, including:
Gate Admission – FREE admission for ages 55 and older, must show ID.

Health Screenings – Stay on top of your well-being with complimentary health checks.

Interactive Activities – Participate in games and entertainment.

Video Contest – Showcase your creativity and dance moves.

Live Entertainment – Enjoy music and dancing.

Prizes & Giveaways – Take home exciting prizes and souvenirs.

OG&E Senior Day is a cherished tradition that brings our senior community together for a day of fun, wellness, and connection. This year’s adventure-themed celebration will inspire seniors to embrace new experiences and enjoy the journey ahead.

Don’t miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and have fun! For more information, visit:okstatefair.com/activities/special-events/

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